

a horn having an elongated and flat sealing face; and
an opposing jaw having an elongated pressing face that presses the tubular laminated packaging material in cooperation with the sealing face of the horn, said elongated pressing face extending in a longitudinal direction and having a center portion and two end portions wherein the center portion is narrower than both end portions.--

Please amend claims 2-8 as follows (A marked-up version of the amended claims is attached to this Amendment):

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2. (Amended) An ultrasonic sealing apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the laminated packaging material contains a paper layer.

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~~3. (Amended) An ultrasonic sealing apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the transverse ultrasonic sealing is ultrasonic sealing with a fluid.~~

4. (Amended) An ultrasonic sealing apparatus according to claim 15, wherein a length of the center portion, in the longitudinal direction of the pressing face of the opposing jaw is at least longer than a length of a longitudinally sealed three-ply portion of the tubular laminated packaging material under a pressed state.

5. (Amended) An ultrasonic sealing apparatus according to claim 15, wherein a width of the center portion is $1/4$ to $1/2$ of a width of the pressing face at both end portions.

6. (Amended) An ultrasonic sealing apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the

B2 narrow center portion has a recess formed along a direction perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of the pressing face.

7. (Amended) An ultrasonic sealing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the formed recess is a recess having an arc shape in section.

8. (Amended) An ultrasonic sealing apparatus according to claim 15, further comprising sealing tape dispensing means wherein, when the laminated packaging material is formed into a tubular form, the laminated packaging material is formed into the tubular form by using sealing tape.

Please cancel claim 9 and rewrite the subject matter as new claim 16 as follows:

B3 --16. An ultrasonic sealing apparatus, in which a laminated packaging material containing at least a thermoplastic resin layer is formed into a tubular form and the tubular laminated packaging material is transversely ultrasonically sealed, said ultrasonic sealing apparatus comprising:

a horn having an elongated and flat sealing face; and

an opposing jaw having an elongated pressing face that presses the tubular laminated packaging material in cooperation with the sealing face of the horn, said elongated pressing face extending in a longitudinal direction wherein a recess is formed in a center portion of the elongated pressing face, the recess being formed along a direction perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of the elongated pressing face.--

Please amend claims 10-14 as follows (A marked-up version of the amended claims is attached to this Amendment):

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10. (Amended) An ultrasonic sealing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the laminated packaging material contains a paper layer.

11. (Amended) An ultrasonic sealing apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the transverse ultrasonic sealing is ultrasonic sealing with a fluid.

12. (Amended) An ultrasonic sealing apparatus according to claim 16, wherein a length of the center portion in the longitudinal direction of the pressing face is at least longer than a length of a longitudinally sealed three-ply portion of the tubular laminated packaging material under a pressed state.

13. (Amended) An ultrasonic sealing apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the formed recess is a recess having an arc shape in section.

14. (Amended) An ultrasonic sealing apparatus according to claim 16, further comprising sealing taper dispensing means wherein, when the laminated packaging material is formed into the tubular form, the laminated packaging material is a formed into the tubular form by using sealing tape.